From: chris cobb

To: Microsoft ATR

Date: 1/23/02 11:56pm

Subject: Microsoft Settlement

DOJ:

The proposed settlement between Microsoft and the Government clearly demonstrates what Microsoft says behind your backs and justifies the pompous attitudes of it's executives.

Namely, that the people at Microsoft are dramatically smarter and more capable than the government and you in particular.

However it has happened (the behind the scenes details are probably a joke), the Government has proposed/accepted/been-duped into a pathetic excuse for an agreement which will do nothing to either punish or prevent the actions that got Microsoft this far and destroyed so many of it's competitors.

Microsoft has gotten everything they wanted and you have swallowed it whole. If this settlement goes through then you deserve Microsoft's ridicule. In it's present form, this settlement is a *LONG* way from accomplishing anything useful towards improving the computer industry.

Some problems with this settlement (which I feel almost ashamed to point out because you should know them and this "settlement" should not even exist) are that:

- 1) There is no significant punishment to MS for their past actions.
- 2) The loopholes and various qualifying sections of the settlement are *huge* and have been specifically crafted by MS to ultimately nullify any controls you think you will have on their future business.
- 3) There are no terms in the settlement which will significantly help those who are trying to compete with MS and break their hold on the market.

I could go on and on, but there are numerous other articles written with sound advice on the problems I have mentioned and ways to correct them. I/We are only hoping that you read them and do the right thing instead of allowing this joke of a settlement to become fixed into history. To do so would reduce the sum total of your contribution to this country, the companies who so injuriously were harmed by Microsoft, and the people who spent years of their lives bringing the case to this level.

Basically, I ask that you care and do the right thing: Reject this settlement, dismiss the people who brought it about, forget about settling (Microsoft will NEVER settle this with any terms that truely hurt them), and take it to a decision of the court.

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